

MEMORANDUM

November 25, 1952

TO: Mr. Nelson C. Jackson, Director
Community Services

FROM: ROY E. MORRIS
Field Representative

SUBJ: Field visit to Philadelphia, Pa. and to Morrisville, Pa.
November 17th and 18th, 1952.

Purpose of Visits:

To follow-up with citizens' group regarding Bucks County race-related problems, and to attend conference with top United States Steel Company officials assembled in Morrisville.

Background of Visits:

In connection with the problems in Bucks County touched off by the announcement of the United States Steel Company to build a large plant in Morrisville, Pa., I began some efforts in December of 1951. Work was done in Trenton and in Philadelphia as well as in Bucks County itself. This trip, reported in this memorandum, was not only follow-up but was the culmination of one phase of progress on the Bucks County situation.

Problems Presented:

Philadelphia - The dominant factor in this visit was the need expressed locally for clarification of race-related Bucks County problems. My approach to that need was to be through personal conferences and through proper orientation, activation and guidance of a group of citizens convened by the Armstrong Association of Philadelphia.

Morrisville - The long waited conference between top United States Steel Company officials and NUL Board and Staff representatives was expected to produce answers to such questions as -

- (1) What responsibility will USSS recognize regarding race-related Bucks County problems?
- (2) What cooperation on these problems can be effected between USS and NUL?
- (3) What will USS agree to do about these problems?

Action Taken:

Philadelphia - I conferred with Mr. Wayne Hopkins and Dr. W. V. Chalmersdeley

during the afternoon. The meeting was scheduled for 8:00 P.M. that evening. Some twenty people were expected, according to Mr. Hopkins. However, only ten people showed up - pouring rain, which began in the early afternoon, was thought to be the cause of the smaller number present. Mr. Hopkins turned the meeting over to me, and after a spirited discussion of the role Philadelphians can play in the Bucks County situation (in-so-far as Philadelphia Negro job or home seekers in Bucks County are concerned), the group voted to effect formal organization for continued work. It was decided that an educational job would be done, aimed at the following objectives:

- (1) Supporting Negroes wishing to purchase homes in Levittown or Fairless Hills.
- (2) Encouraging better than average qualified Negro heavy industry workers to apply FOR JOBS at Fairless Works.
- (3) Seeking means of eliminating the future possibility of large-scale housing builders denying Negroes equal opportunity to purchase or rent.

Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Sparks of the Armstrong Association staff were among the officers elected for this new organization. Mr. Hopkins is temporary chairman while Mr. Sparks is Secretary.

Morrisville - Twelve other people attended the United States Steel Company - National Urban League Conference on Bucks County problems. Full attendance included the following:

Mr. Appleyard, Public Relations Director, Fairless Works, USS Co.
Mr. Joseph Baker, Joseph Baker & Associates, Philadelphia
Mr. Al Bartle, General Superintendent, Fairless Works, USS Co.
Mr. Robert Dowling, President, NUL
Mr. A. L. Hood, Executive Vice President, USS Co.
Mrs. Sophia Jacobs, Board Member, NUL
Mr. Ross Leffler, Assistant to the Executive Vice Pres. USS Co.
Mr. Earl Moore, Vice Pres. in Charge of Ind. Rel., USS Co.
Mr. R. Maurice Moss, Associate Exec. Sec'y, NUL
Mr. Roy E. Norris, Field Representative, NUL
Mr. Winthrop Rockefeller, Board Member, NUL
Mrs. Dorothy Rosenman, Board Member, NUL
Mr. Julius A. Thomas, Dir. Ind. Rel., NUL

Company officials did not define the firm's responsibility specifically. However, there was recognition of some responsibility of the firm to the community. What exactly will be done about it and when, as well as the extent of cooperation with the NUL was not spelled out. Nevertheless, there was understanding that our efforts would continue and that our conferences in the future might show great progress.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The group of citizens in Philadelphia covered by the Armstrong Association, must be considered only a nucleus or central group. It will require the efforts of organizations represented in that group to produce any satisfactory number of Philadelphia Negroes who are ready, willing and able to buy Levittown or Fairless Mills houses. It will be wise to keep in closest touch with the new organization, particularly since its membership already seems more interested in affecting legislation to prevent any recurrence of Levittown and Fairless Mills racial practices in the State of Pennsylvania - lest the primary reason for convening the group be lost in the broader interest stimulated.

In regard to United States Steel Company officials, I recommend that the NUL request the new Bucks County Council of Social Agencies organization to convene a meeting of representatives of each local agency accepted in the Chart Campaign - directly or indirectly. The NUL request should ask that that group ask for a conference with USS officials as soon as possible. The NUL should be represented in that request, counsel with the group, etc. However, the NUL should pursue its individual course also, including:

- (1) Follow-up correspondence with USS officials - designed to continue arrangements for employment and housing goals involving USS cooperation.
- (2) Close contact with Bucks County residents and organizations toward the end that more conscious and active interests be realized.
- (3) On-the-spot discussion with Fairless Mills officials (as expected by Mr. Burtis, Superintendent) regarding Negro higher echelon job seekers and their placement in Fairless Mills.

cc: Mr. Granger - Mr. Moss
Mr. Thomas
Mr. Farris
Mr. Johnson
Miss Tammhill - Mr. Finley - Mr. Pope
Dr. Banner - Mr. Mason